

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 079256

66

ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /011 R

66640

DRAFTED BY: S/ S- O: JCRAIG

APPROVED BY: S/ S- O: JMEALUM

----- 044697

P 270047 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 079256

EXDIS

FOL TEL SENT SECSTATE INFO TEL AVIV, TRIPOLI FROM PARIS

APRIL 26 TH:

QUOTE: PARIS 11550

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: MARR, LY, FG

SUBJECT: LIBYAN MIRAGE TRANSFER

REF: A) STATE 077837; B) PARIS 11487

1. ONE REASON FRENCH MAY HAVE HANDLED MIRAGE ISSUE IN RATHER  
CONFUSED AND CONTRADICTORY FASHION IS NOT SO MUCH DISAGREEMENT  
ABOUT BASIC INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION, BUT RATHER DIFFERING  
VIEWS ABOUT NATURE OF " TRANSFER" AND HOW TO HANDLE ISSUE IN  
FRENCH DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONTEXT. ALTHOUGH IN EARLY STAGES  
THERE COULD HAVE BEEN DOUBT IN FRENCH INTELLIGENCE AND MILITARY  
CIRCLES ABOUT WHAT HAD TAKEN PLACE, SUBSEQUENTLY FRENCH PROBABLY  
MORE CONCERNED TO FIND OUT WHETHER TRANSFER TEMPORARY OR  
PERMANENT AND WHAT WERE LIBYAN AND EGYPTIAN INTENTIONS FOR  
FUTURE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 079256

2. BECAUSE OF INCREASINGLY SHRILL PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF MIRAGE TRANSFER AND IMPLICATIONS FOR ENTIRE FRENCH MIDDLE EAST POLICY, ISSUE HAS BECOME ONE OF CONSIDERABLE SENSITIVITY TO GOF. ISRAELIS, IN PARTICULAR, AS EVIDENCED BY AMBASSADOR BEN NATAN'S STATEMENTS APRIL 25 ( REPORTED REF B), ARE PUTTING GREAT PRESSURE ON FRENCH TO ADMIT THAT TRANSFER HAS TAKEN PLACE AND THAT HENCE EMBARGO SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO EFFECT IN LIGHT GOF ASSURANCES DATING FROM 1970.

3. PROBLEM FOR US IS COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT GOF HAS BEEN GIVING US CONTRADICTIONARY INFORMATION, AND THAT AT QUAI AT LEAST, WHERE MORE SENSITIVE FRENCH INTELLIGENCE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN DISSEMINATED AT WORKING LEVEL, OFFICIALS HAVE INSISTED TRANSFER HAS NOT TAKEN PLACE.

4. WE AGREE THAT AS DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS FOCUS OF ANY APPROACH TO FRENCH SHOULD BE ON ISSUE OF MIDDLE EAST ARMS BALANCE AND ON STEPS WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN TO MAINTAIN IT. IT WOULD NOT BE USEFUL TO ADDRESS QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT QUAI OFFICIALS HAVE MISLEAD US. WE BELIEVE IT ALSO NOT DESIRABLE FOR US TO SEEM TO BE MAKING CONCERTED APPROACH WITH ISRAELIS. WERE USG TO MAKE DEMARCHE IMMEDIATELY ON HEELS OF BEN NATAN, WHO HAS INDICATED INTENTION OF RAISING ISSUE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, WE WOULD ANTICIPATE RELATIVELY STERILE DISCUSSION. SUCH A DEMARCHE COULD COMPLICATE OUR OBJECTIVE OF GETTING FRENCH TO STICK TO THEIR ANNOUNCED POLICY OF SUSPENDING DELIVERIES IN EVENT FORMAL TRANSFER HAS TAKEN PLACE.

5. FRENCH MAY EVENTUALLY PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT SOME MIRAGES FLEW TO EGYPT, BUT MAY CONTINUE TO DENY THAT " TRANSFER" HAS TAKEN PLACE, UNLESS EVIDENCE COMES TO LIGHT THAT PLANES ARE IN EFFECT PERMANENTLY BASED IN EGYPT OR UNLESS LIBYANS THEMSELVES TAKE CREDIT FOR HAVING GIVEN PLANES TO THEIR EGYPTIAN PARTNERS. WE WOULD EXPECT THERE TO BE GROWING FRENCH EFFORT QUIETLY BEHIND SCENES TO GET LIBYANS TO PULL PLANES BACK AND TO GET RENEWED ASSURANCES THAT TRANSFER IN LEGAL SENSE OF TERM HAS NOT TAKEN PLACE. FACE- SAVING FORMULA OF THIS KIND IS PROBABLY BEST THAT FRENCH CAN HOPE FOR UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES. ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER APRIL 26 CABINET MEETING THAT BOTH LIBYANS AND EGYPTIANS HAVE GIVEN GOF FORMAL DENIALS THAT JETS TURNED  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 079256

OVER TO EGYPT AND STATEMENT THAT FRANCE HAS RECEIVED NO CONFIRMATION OF RUMORED TRANSFER SUGGEST THIS IS INDEED DIRECTION IN WHICH GOF WORKING. WE NOTE THAT FRENCH STATEMENT RELATES TO " TRANSFER" OF PLANES TO EGYPT, NOT TO THE FACT OF THE PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF THE AIRPLANES IN EGYPT.

6. CONSEQUENTLY, WE PROPOSE TO PURSUE DISCUSSION OF MIRAGE ISSUE WITH FRENCH ( DE COMMINES) -- AT APPROPRIATE MOMENT --

IN CONTEXT OF BORDER REVIEW OF MIDDLE EAST ISSUES IN  
PREPARATION FOR FORTHCOMING UNSC DEBATE, RAISING QUESTION  
OF ARMS BALANCE, BUT AVOIDING ANY SUGGESTION THAT WE  
ARE INTERFERING IN WHAT COULD BECOME EXPLOSIVE POLITICAL  
ISSUE IN FRANCE. IN SO DOING WE COULD ALSO KEEP IN MIND  
THAT MIRAGE SALES AND MAINTENANCE OF DASSAULT PRODUCTIVE  
FACILITIES ARE IMPORTANT FRENCH STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC  
INTERESTS. AFFAIR THUS HAS RAMIFICATIONS REACHING FAR  
AND WIDE IN FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS STRUCTURE.  
IRWIN UNQUOTE ROGERS

SECRET  
NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* EXDIS  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 APR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973STATE079256  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** O: JCRAIG  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** XGDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730454/aaaiazaq.tel  
**Line Count:** 127  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 73 STATE 077837, 73 PARIS 11487  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <03-Jan-2002 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980204  
**Subject:** LIBYAN MIRAGE TRANSFER  
**TAGS:** MARR, FG, LY  
**To:** CAIRO  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005